

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: BONFANTI, Jean-François et al.  
Serial No.: Not Assigned Art Unit: TBA  
Filed: Herewith  
For : PIPERIDINE-AMINO-BENZIMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES AS  
INHIBITORS OF RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS  
REPLICATION

Mail Stop: PCT  
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P. O. Box 1450  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"**

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination and calculation of fees due, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

- ☒ Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.
- ☒ Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.
- ☐ Amendments to the Drawings begin on page \_\_\_\_\_ of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.
- ☒ Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.

**AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, between the Title and line 4, please insert the following new paragraph:

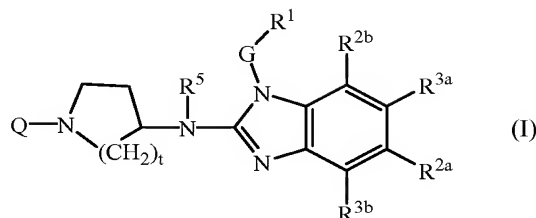
--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is the national stage of PCT Application No. PCT/EP2004/053606, filed December 20, 2004, which application claims priority from European Patent Application No. 03104802.8, filed 18 December 2003 and US provisional Patent Application No. 60/566835, filed 30 April 2004, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated in their entirety.--

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Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



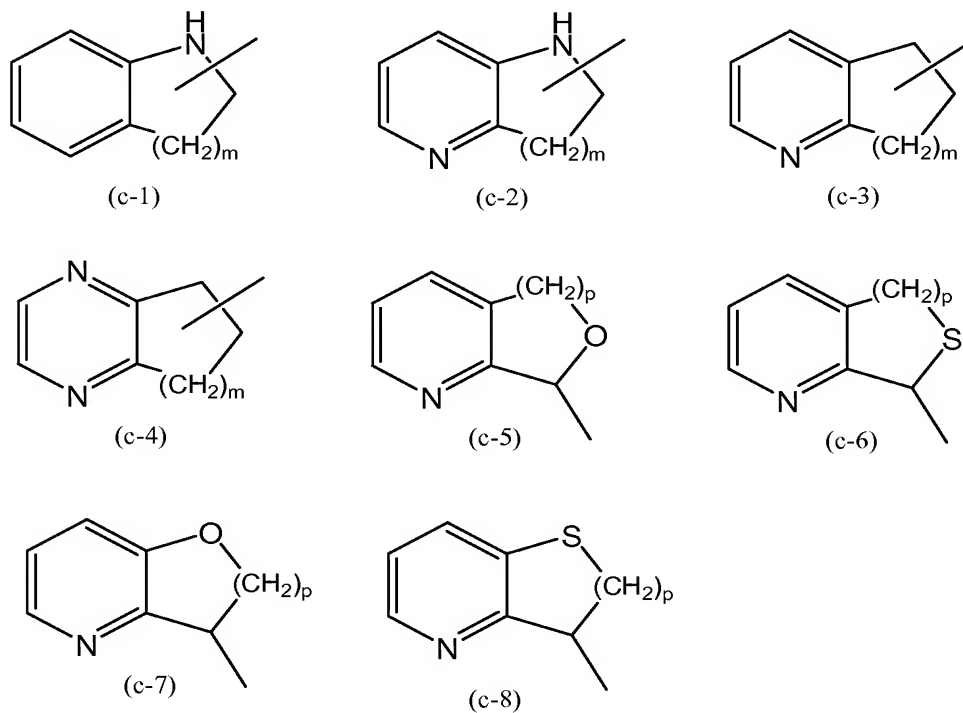
a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein

Q is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents each independently selected from the group consisting of trifluoromethyl, C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, Ar<sup>2</sup>, hydroxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylthio, Ar<sup>2</sup>-oxy-, Ar<sup>2</sup>-thio-, Ar<sup>2</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>oxy, Ar<sup>2</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>thio, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylcarbonyl, Ar<sup>2</sup>carbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, Ar<sup>2</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>carbonyl, aminocarbonyloxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylcarbonyloxy, Ar<sup>2</sup>carbonyloxy, Ar<sup>2</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>carbonyloxy, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>oxy, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminocarbonyloxy, aminosulfonyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonyl or a heterocycle selected from the group consisting of pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolyl, dihydropyrrolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyridyl and tetrahydro-pyridyl, wherein each of said heterocycle may optionally be substituted with oxo or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or Q is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with two substituents wherein one substituent is selected from the group consisting of amino, mono- and diC<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl-amino and Ar<sup>2</sup>-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkylamino and the other substituent is selected from the group consisting of carboxyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl, Ar<sup>2</sup>-C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl and aminosulfonyl;

G is a direct bond or C<sub>1-10</sub>alkanediyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, Ar<sup>1</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, Ar<sup>1</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, HO(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>- and Ar<sup>1</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-;

R<sup>1</sup> is Ar<sup>1</sup> or a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycle being selected from piperidinyl, piperazinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, furanyl, tetrahydro-furanyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzthiazolyl, pyridopyridyl, naphthiridinyl,

1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl, 3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridinyl, imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-*b*]pyridyl or a radical of formula



wherein each of said monocyclic or bicyclic heterocycles may optionally be substituted with 1 or where possible more, such as 2, 3, 4 or 5, substituents individually selected from the group of substituents consisting of halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylthio, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, Ar<sup>1</sup>, Ar<sup>1</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, Ar<sup>1</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy, hydroxyC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino, mono- or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)aminoC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, polyhaloC<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylcarbonylamino, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl-SO<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>4a</sup>-, Ar<sup>1</sup>-SO<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>4a</sup>-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-NR<sup>4a</sup>R<sup>4b</sup>, HO(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, halo(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, Ar<sup>1</sup>C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>- and mono- or di(C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl)amino(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-; each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4; one of R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>3a</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and the other one of R<sup>2a</sup> and R<sup>3a</sup> is hydrogen; in case R<sup>2a</sup> is different from hydrogen then R<sup>2b</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and R<sup>3b</sup> is hydrogen; in case R<sup>3a</sup> is different from hydrogen then R<sup>3b</sup> is hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and R<sup>2b</sup> is hydrogen; or R<sup>3b</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and R<sup>3a</sup>, R<sup>2a</sup>, R<sup>2b</sup> all are hydrogen; or R<sup>2b</sup> is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and R<sup>3a</sup>, R<sup>2a</sup>, R<sup>3b</sup> all are hydrogen; R<sup>4a</sup> and R<sup>4b</sup> can be the same or can be different relative to one another, and are each independently hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; or

$R^{4a}$  and  $R^{4b}$  taken together may form a bivalent radical of formula  $-(CH_2)_s-$ ;

$R^5$  is hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

m is 1 or 2;

p is 1 or 2;

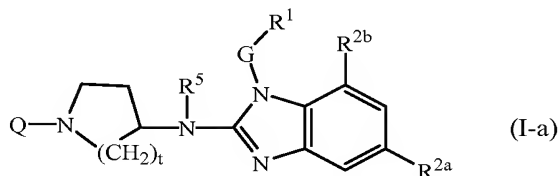
s is 4 or 5;

t is 1, 2 or 3;

$Ar^1$  is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, hydroxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, polyhalo $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy;

$Ar^2$  is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, hydroxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, polyhalo $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, amino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, amino-sulfonyl, aminocarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylcarbonyl, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)aminocarbonyl, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl and  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound has the formula

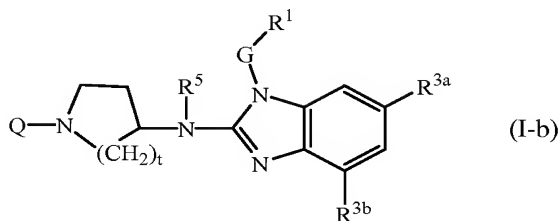


wherein Q, t,  $R^5$ , G and  $R^1$  are as claimed in claim 1; and

$R^{2a}$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$R^{2b}$  is hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.

3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound has the formula

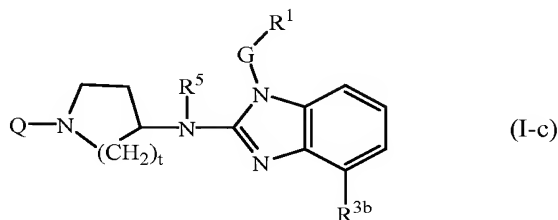


wherein Q, t,  $R^5$ , G and  $R^1$  are as claimed in claim 1; and

$R^{3a}$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

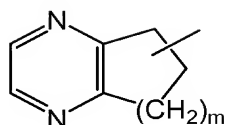
$R^{3b}$  is hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound has the formula



wherein Q, t,  $R^5$ , G and  $R^1$  are as claimed in claim 1; and  $R^{3b}$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein t is 2.
6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein G is  $C_{1-10}$ alkanediyl.
7. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~in any of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein G is methylene.
8. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein  $R^1$  is pyridyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylthio,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $Ar^1$ ,  $Ar^1C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $Ar^1C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy, hydroxy $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, mono-or di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino, mono-or di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, polyhalo $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkylcarbonylamino,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl-SO<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>4a</sup>-,  $Ar^1$ -SO<sub>2</sub>-NR<sup>4a</sup>-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-NR<sup>4a</sup>R<sup>4b</sup>, HO(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-, halo(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-,  $Ar^1C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>- and mono-or di( $C_{1-6}$ alkyl)amino(-CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>-O)<sub>n</sub>-.
9. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein  $R^1$  is pyridyl substituted with 1 or 2 substituents independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.
10. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~, wherein  $R^1$  is  $Ar^1$ , quinolinyl, benzimidazolyl, a radical of formula



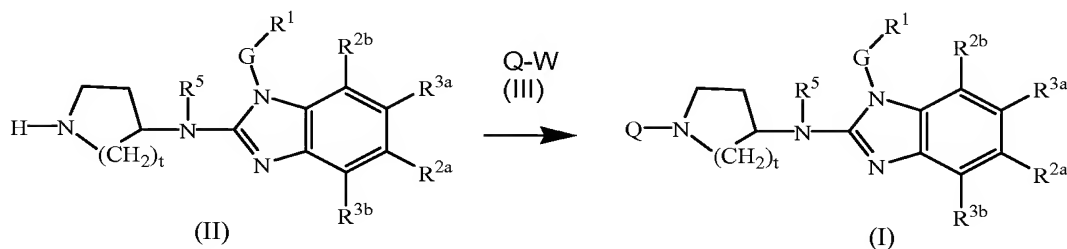
(c-4)

or pyrazinyl; wherein each of the radicals  $Ar^1$ , quinolinyl, benzimidazolyl, (c-4), or pyrazinyl may optionally be substituted with the substituents of said radicals as claimed in claim 1.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1~~any of claims 1—7~~, wherein  $R^1$  is phenyl optionally substituted with one, two or three radicals selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxy,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxy; quinolinyl; a radical (c-4) wherein m is 2, optionally substituted with up to two radicals selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; benzimidazolyl optionally substituted with  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; pyrazinyl optionally substituted with up to three radicals selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.
12. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1~~any of claims 1—11~~, wherein  $R^5$  is hydrogen.
13. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1~~any of claims 1—12~~, wherein Q is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from trifluoromethyl,  $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,  $Ar^2$ , hydroxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy,  $Ar^2$ -oxy-,  $Ar^2(CH_2)_n$ oxy, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkylcarbonyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyloxy,  $Ar^2(CH_2)_n$ carbonyloxy,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl $(CH_2)_n$ oxy, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)aminosulfonyl or a heterocycle selected from pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolyl, dihydropyrrolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, piperazinyl and tetrahydropyridyl, wherein each of said heterocycle may optionally be substituted with oxo or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; or Q is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl substituted with two substituents wherein one substituent is selected from amino and the other substituent is selected from carboxyl and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyloxycarbonyl;
14. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1~~any of claims 1—12~~, wherein Q is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from aminocarbonyl,  $C_{1-4}$ alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyloxy,  $Ar^2(CH_2)_n$ carbonyloxy, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, mono- or di( $C_{1-4}$ alkyl)aminosulfonyl, pyrrolidinyl, dihydropyrrolyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl and tetrahydropyridyl; or Q is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.

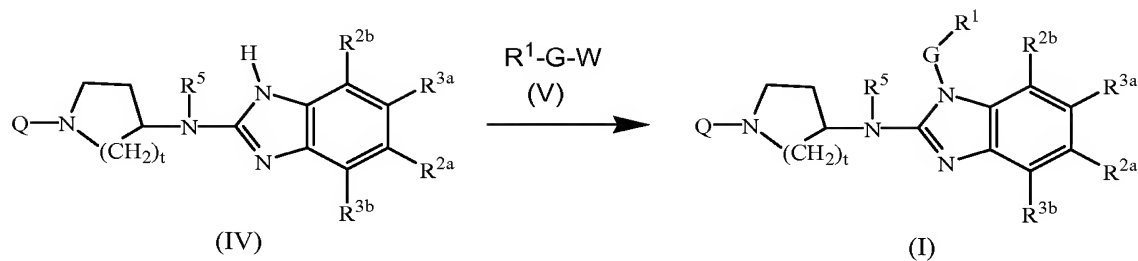
<sub>6</sub>alkyl substituted with two substituents wherein one substituent is amino and the other substituent is selected from carboxyl and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1—12~~, wherein Q is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted with one substituent selected from aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyloxy, Ar<sup>2</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>carbonyloxy, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonyl, pyrrolidinyl, dihydropyrrolyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl and tetrahydropyridyl, and optionally with a second substituent which is hydroxy or Q is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with two substituents wherein one substituent is amino and the other substituent is selected from carboxyl and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyloxycarbonyl.
16. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1—12~~, wherein Q is C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted with aminocarbonyl, C<sub>1-4</sub>alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyloxy, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, mono- or di(C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl)aminosulfonyl, pyrrolidinyl, dihydropyrrolyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl or tetrahydropyridyl.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 16~~.
- 19-20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 23~~, said process comprising
  - (a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II) with a reagent (III) as in the following reaction scheme:



- (b) reacting an intermediate of formula (IV) with a reagent (V) as in the following

reaction scheme:



wherein Q, G, t, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2a</sup>, R<sup>2b</sup>, R<sup>3a</sup>, R<sup>3b</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> are as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~; and optionally converting the thus obtained compounds of formula (I) into their pharmaceutically acceptable base-addition or acid addition salt form by treatment with a suitable base or acid and conversely treating the base-addition or acid addition salt form with an acid or a base to obtain the free form of the compound of formula (I).

**REMARKS**

Consideration of the captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is requested.

The specification has been amended to refer to the priority applications.

Claims 1-16, 18 and 21 are currently pending. Claims 17, 19 and 20 are hereby cancelled and claims 5-16, 18 and 21 are currently amended, without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter deleted therein. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, the claims pending and under consideration are claims 1-16, 18 and 21.

Early favourable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance of claims 1-16, 18 and 21 be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

/Alana G. Kriegsman/

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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